

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
May 6, 2003

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, May 6, 2003 in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield. Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Members present:

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present:

Wayne Adams, County Administrator
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council
and others as per list attached

Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve the April 1, 2003, Minutes of the regular meeting of the Edgefield County Council as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

At this time a report was to be given by Gerald Griffith for the Recreation Committee. Mr. Griffith was not present, so Mitch Herrin gave a report from the Town of Johnston. Mr. Herrin stated that he had spoken with the Johnston mayor and in talking with ones from the committee "We are really in dire need of a recreation director or coordinator. What we would propose to do is the towns (Edgefield said same thing last week) take care of their own fields for a year or two, whatever it takes to get on our feet; for the county to run the program as far as hiring a director/coordinator and what his job would be; should report to the county. Would like a countywide football league board from each area – meet with the director to tell him what we would like to see happening in the county. Up to the county's judgment as far as the money spent. As far as program money, we think all monies should go back in to the county. Exact number of what Little League and Johnston and Edgefield have – somewhere around \$15,000 to \$20,000 between the two. Expenditures somewhere around the same. Football brought in over \$50,000 – first year – just touched the tip of the iceberg. Lot of corporate money out there we could have gotten – just did not have the time to do it. Main reason we want a coordinator is that we would not have to do the hunting of what businesses and monies are out there. They could do that and we could spend more time with the kids. As far as the town of Johnston

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we would love to have it – do it like a pilot program – first year or two we will keep up the fields until we get money in the fund. Know football is a big money maker. There could be basketball – very low cost. Does not cost to outfit a child in basketball what it does in football. Held back in football reserve \$15,000 to \$17,000. Every four years you could replace the uniforms, equipment, etc. Believe the program itself could pay for a director – maybe not the first year but after that. Program should be self-sufficient.” Chairman said this would be received as information.

No questions on any of the other reports.

Ordinances

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve third and final reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-434, “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 39 of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to Change Certain Terminology in Order to Comply with Recommendations of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.” Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-435, “An Ordinance Providing for the FY 2003-04 General Operating Budget, and to Establish Budgets Pertaining to Debt Service, E-911 Administration, Victims’ Bill of Rights, and Certain Capital Expenditures” and to add staff proposed amendments 1,3,4,5 (see public hearing minutes for description of amendments) to the 2003 budget.” Chairman asked for any discussion. There being none, Councilman Hudson made a motion to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-435 as amended. Seconded by Councilman Kitchens. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 02-03-436, “An Ordinance Adopting the 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC) Relating to Inspection Activities Concerning Electrical Applications and Providing for Enforcement of the Provisions of Said Code.” Motion carried unanimously.

An item on a previous agenda was the appointment of a representative to represent Bettis Park on the Recreation Committee. Mr. Bright recommended Mr. Charlie Johnson, Sr., 53 Bettis Academy Road Ext., Trenton, SC 29847. Councilman Dorn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to accept Councilman Bright’s recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Councilman Dorn made a motion to contribute \$750.00 to the National Fire Safety Council, Inc. Seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously. This is a contribution council has made for many years. It supports a fire program administered by

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the Edgefield Fire Department for the schools.

Motion was made by Chairman Kneece, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve a contribution of \$500.00 for the Edgefield County Law Officers Association Fishing Rodeo "Get Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs." Motion carried unanimously.

Council asked for an explanation concerning the next item: Agreement between the County of Edgefield and the SC Department of Corrections. The administrator stated that the county takes out state inmates everyday to pick up roadside litter. We have paid a fee per inmate per day since the program began five or six years ago. They are raising the fee for this service to \$10.00 per inmate per day (increase of \$4.00). Has been included in the budget. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson to approve the Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Lex Walters, President of Piedmont Tech, was not present to address council concerning the budget. Dr. Walters is asking for an increase. Received \$45,000.00 last year. As a result of the amendment just passed cutting non-salary expenses by 3%, it is at \$43,655.00.

Old Business

Report from Midlands Roofing concerning the roof of the ECCHO building. The roof has been patched a couple times during the past couple of months. Basically what is being said is that the roof membrane has lost its ability to deal to temperature changes. Because the building is not occupied continuously there is no internal regulation of temperature, so it fluctuates with the outside temperature and this is what has caused the roof to crack, especially as it has become older and weaker. Patched a couple times, cost being between \$500 and \$700. Patched area becomes stronger and the other areas become weaker. Midlands has proposed a fix for this of \$21,750.00. That would depend on using the county's dump truck, and on the county taking care of all of the landfill use costs. The administrator and a representative of ECCHO went in the building and most of the rooms being used do not have a problem. Walls are a little damp in some areas, which may cause mold. Basic question is whether council wants to spend that much money on that old building. Councilman Kitchens stated that it is hard to stop a flat roof from leaking and what would the cost be to put a gable roof on. Answer was about \$60,000.00. Council asked if there was anywhere else ECCHO could use. Everything in the Neighborhood Center is being used at the present. If the Council on Aging gets their new building there would be extra space. Won't know until the summer if funding for the new building will be available – then construction time. Chairman Kneece made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to repair (patch) one more time. Motion carried unanimously.

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Guests

Chuck Reinert - Trenton Flyers. He stated that he is not with Plane Fun (Johnny Anderson). Trenton Flyers is a club that flies out of Trenton. Mr. Reinert said the main thing he wanted to say is that he wanted to clear a couple of items that bothered him that had been published in the paper. 'First, want to make sure all of you know that the ultra-lights that fly out of Trenton have mufflers – not super loud. Cannot run a two-cycle engine without a muffler. We not only have mufflers, most have after mufflers and some of us have intake mufflers. Most of the noise heard comes from the propellers and not the mufflers. We are doing everything we can to keep down the noise. Second, is training and safety. Everybody that flies out of there has been through training. Johnny and Mike and I, as president of Trenton Flyers, make sure of that. Another thing that is sort of a misconception is that within 20 miles of the Trenton Airport there are at least 15 other airstrips. Not every airplane or every ultra-light that flies over Edgefield County came out of the Trenton Airport. More than half of the airstrips have ultra-lights flying out from there. Trenton Airport has about 12 ultra-lights; about 9 or 10 are actually flying. Others being repaired. Talking to people and reading the papers you would think there are about 200. About the flyers peeping at people with binoculars – have you ever tried driving a car and looking through binoculars? Know people contact the council about us. Just want you all to know that you are welcome anytime to come out there. We will be glad to show you these things.

Gerald Griffith, Merriwether representative serving on the recreation committee. "Mitchell said you all have already discussed the recreation director/coordinator. Just want to touch base on a couple of things. I am one of the representative s from the football program for Merriwether. In addition to that I am representing baseball from Edgefield. Just wanted to say in my business I deal with a lot of industries. Everybody is cutting back. It is no secret everyone is cutting back. But the one thing we all still invest in is our children. We still figure out a way to afford programs for our children. To say that we can't afford a program director (not from council but other individuals) – I am under the impression we can't afford not to have a program director. We have \$30,000 in football we raised this year – actually more than that. In three years we will have \$100,000. – none of us have any business managing \$100,000. That is just part of it. Football - \$30,000; baseball will probably raise from anywhere from \$3,000 to \$6,000 this year, if not more; basketball, with a minimum of 300 participants, \$6,000 to \$10,000 (after officials are paid and utilities, etc.) Does not include soccer. Adult sports – don't know. All of this is without pursuing donations from local businesses. I have been approached recently by the Belvedere Dixie Youth Baseball League. Because of districting restrictions that has been put on them they would like to talk with our league about possibly doing some kind of combination. We have probably half of their league that consists of Edgefield County children (Merriwether area). In the past I know that when some of the councilmen ran for office, recreation was part of your platforms. That caught my interest. In essence, we are sending so much money to other counties. There are some

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other revenue creating sources I am not aware of – just been told of. I'd really like to see us take a serious look at this."

Claims approved as follows:

A. **PAYROLL:** **3/31/03 thru 4/13/03**

Regular.....\$91,203.33

PAYROLL: **4/14/03 thru 4/27/03**

Regular.....\$93,074.41

B. **GENERAL OPERATING:.....\$513,606.29**

No executive session.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to adjourn. The next regular meeting of council will be held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, June 3, 2003. A budget work session is scheduled for May 15t.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

ATTEST

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

